Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja (*Advocate-General*): Yes.

The motion was put and carried.

Secretary to the Council: The title of the bill is 'The Cochin Anchal Act Amendment Bill'.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I request the President that S. O. 32 may be suspended and that the bill be taken up for consideration.

Mr. Deputy President: S. O. 32 is suspended.

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2 to 5 were put and carried.

The title and preamble were put and carried.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move that this bill be taken up and finally passed to-morrow.

The motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Provident Funds Act (Amendment) Bill.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Sir, I propose to move that the Cochin Provident Funds Act Amendment Bill be read in Council.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja (*Advocate-General*): I second it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): This amendment is intended to enable the subscribers to include also Marumakkathayi heirs as dependants who can receive the provident fund amount in case they die before they retire. As it is, they cannot do that and therefore the amendment has brought in 'the sister and brother and also the sister's child' as dependants who can draw the provident fund amount of a subscriber. It is only a permissive piece of legislation. I propose that the bill be read in Council.

The motion was put and carried.

Secretary to the Council: The title of the bill is 'The Cochin Provident Funds Act Amendment Bill'.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): I request that S. O. 32 may be suspended and the bill be taken up for consideration.

Mr. Deputy President: S. O. 32 is suspended.

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

The title and preamble were put and carried.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*): Sir, I propose that the bill be taken up and passed to-morrow.

The motion was put and carried.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

Charging well-to-do patients attending medical institutions.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Sir, I rise to move the following resolution for the acceptance of the House :—

"*This Council recommends to Government that well-to-do patients attending the medical institutions for treatment may be charged for such treatment and that the scale of charges may be according to the income of patients.*"

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao (*Chief Medical Officer*): Sir, in moving this resolution on the floor of this House, I do not think that I am called upon to make a long speech so that the hon'ble members here may decide on the question, because the general principles on which this resolution is being moved to-day are, I am sure, acceptable to one and all for the simple reason that it is not the intention of the Government to charge the poor and it is the intention of the Government to see that well-to-do people do not over-crowd our hospitals and thus deprive the poor of what is legitimately their due. It is a well-known fact that hospitals are charitable institutions and especially in the West, well-to-do men always consider it as a shame to deprive the poor of the accommodation in the hospitals and this sense of self-respect compels them to resort to what are known as nursing homes intended for catering to the needs of the special class of people, with the result that nursing homes of special type are evolved. There are nursing homes which are well-equipped where payments are made on a very large scale. There are middle-class nursing homes and there are a lower class also, and patients can go to nursing homes that suit their purses. At the same time it does not mean that the poorer man is deprived of the best medical aid nor is the well-to-do man deprived of it, because the hospitals are staffed with the very best and skilful of medical men. Similarly we will find that professional men of repute attach themselves not only to one type of nursing home, but that they are attached to the different types according to their skill. This subject is not new. It was tackled soon after my return from England in 1916. The then Diwan,

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